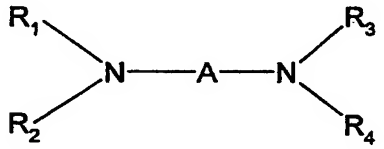
What is claimed is:

1. A method of reducing dye loss or dye transfer from textile fibre materials, in which method the textile fibre materials are treated with a particulate composition comprising
a) from 1 to 90 % by weight of a water-soluble dye fixative,
b) from 2 to 80 % by weight of a carrier,
c) from 0 to 60 % by weight of a binder that is soluble/dispersible in water,
d) from 0 to 20 % by weight of a further additive, and
e) from 0 to 15 % by weight water,
the percentages in each case denoting percent by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate composition is in the form of granules.

3. A method according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein treatment is effected with a particulate composition comprising, as the water-soluble dye fixative a), a basic polycondensation product of an amine of formula



(1)

and a cyanamide, wherein the mentioned polycondensation product either has not been neutralised or has been neutralised wholly or partially with an inorganic or organic acid,
R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 each independently of the others being hydrogen or alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by amino, hydroxy, cyano or by C_1-C_4alkoxy, and
A being alkylene unsubstituted or substituted or uninterrupted or interrupted by one or more hetero atoms.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein A is C_2-C_{20}alkylene uninterrupted or interrupted by -O-, -S-, -NH- or by -N(C_1-C_4alkyl)- and/or unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, preferably C_2-C_{20}alkylene interrupted one or more times by -NH-.

5. A method according to either claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (1) is a polyethylenepolyamine, especially diethylenetriamine.

6. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the cyanamide is dicyandiamide.

7. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the inorganic or organic acid is a mono- or poly-carboxylic acid, hydrochloric acid, phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid or a mixture of at least two such acids.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to7, wherein treatment is effected with a particulate composition comprising a carrier that comprises at least one of the following components:
a) water-soluble inorganic and/or organic salts, which may especially be customary textile washing composition constituents but are preferably not surfactant components,
b) finely divided organic solids that are capable of swelling in water and/or are water-soluble, and
c) very finely dispersed water-insoluble inorganic carriers.

9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the carrier b) consists of at least one compound from the group consisting of zeolites, bentonites, kieselguhr, talc, kaolin, mica, fuller's earth, cellulose, feldspar and/or condensation products of urea and formaldehyde.

10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the binder c) consists of at least one compound from the group consisting of starch, maltodextrin and carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, polyethylene glycols, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide copolymers, polyvinyl alcohols and/or gelatin.

11. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the particulate compositions comprise wetting agents, water-insoluble or water-soluble dyes, fillers, pigments, perfume oils, foam-regulators, thickeners, microbicides, complexing agents, dissolution accelerators, fluorescent whitening agents, UV absorbers, antioxidants and/or anti-dust agents as further additives d).

12. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the particulate compositions are coated.

13. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the particulate compositions are uncoated and have a substantially homogeneous distribution of their constituents.

14. A particulate composition comprising
a) from 1 to 90 % by weight of a water-soluble dye fixative,
b) from 2 to 80 % by weight of a carrier,
c) from 0 to 60 % by weight of a binder that is soluble/dispersible in water,
d) from 0 to 20 % by weight of a further additive, and
e) from 0 to 15 % by weight water,
the percentages in each case denoting percent by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, and the constituents a), b), c), d) and e) being defined according to claims 1 to 13.

15. A method for the preparation of the particulate compositon, which comprises
a) dissolving a dye fixative or a dye fixative and a binder, and
then bringing a solid carrier into contact with the solution, preferably forming a suspension therein, or
b) dissolving a dye fixative or a dye fixative and a binder, and
then applying the solution to the solid carrier or granulating it therewith, or
c) extruding a paste comprising a dye fixative, a carrier and a binder, or
d) granulating a mixture consisting of a dye fixative, a carrier and possibly also a binder, by spray application of a solvent or a melt in which further binders may have been dissolved, and drying the compositions obtained according to methods a), b), c) or d), or allowing them to solidify by cooling.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein, in a subsequent step, the particulate composition is sprayed with a solution of a coating material and is dried or is coated with a melt.

17. A washing formulation for reducing dye loss or dye transfer from textile fibre materials, comprising

I) 5 - 90 % of A) at least one anionic surfactant and/or B) at least one non-ionic surfactant, based on the total weight of the washing formulation,

II) 5 - 70 % of C) at least one builder substance, based on the total weight of the washing formulation,

III) 0 - 30 % of D) at least one peroxide and optionally at least one activator, based on the total weight of the washing formulation,

IV) 0.1 - 70 % of E) at least one particulate composition comprising

a) from 1 to 90 % by weight of at least one water-soluble dye fixative,

b) from 2 to 80 % by weight of at least one carrier,

c) from 0 to 60 % by weight of at least one binder that is soluble/dispersible in water,

d) from 0 to 20 % by weight of at least one further additive, and

e) from 0 to 15 % by weight water,

V) 0 – 60 % of F) at least one further additive, and

VI) 0 – 12 % of G) water.

18. A washing formulation according to claim 17, comprising

I) 5 - 90 % of A) at least one anionic surfactant from the group consisting of C_{12}-C_{22}alkylethoxysulfates in which the alkyl moiety has from 10 to 20 carbon atoms and the head group contains on average 2 or 3 ethoxy units; alkylbenzene-sulfonates having from 9 to 15 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety; alkylnaphthalenesulfonates having from 6 to 16 carbon atoms in the respective alkyl moiety; or alkali metal sarcosinates of the formula R_{11}-CO-N(R_{12})-CH_2COOM_1,

wherein R_{11} is alkyl or alkenyl having from 8 to 18 carbon atoms in the alkyl or alkenyl moiety,

R_{12} is C_1-C_4alkyl and

M_1 is an alkali metal, and/or

of B) at least one non-ionic surfactant from the group consisting of a condensation product of from 3 to 8 mol of ethylene oxide with 1 mol of primary alcohol having from 9 to 15 carbon atoms,

II) 5 - 70 % of C) a builder substance from the group consisting of alkali metal phosphates; carbonates; bicarbonates; silicates; aluminium silicates; polycarboxylates; polycarboxylic acids; organic phosphonates or aminoalkylenepoly-(alkylene phosphonates),

III) 0 - 30 % of D) a peroxide from the group consisting of organic mono- or poly-peroxides; organic per-acids or salts thereof; persulfates; perborates; percarbonates; persilicates,

IV) 0.1 - 70 % of E) granules comprising

a) from 1 to 90 % by weight, preferably from 5 to 88 % by weight, especially from 10 to 78 % by weight, of polydiallyldimethylammonium compounds, especially polydiallyldimethylammonium salts, bis-chloromethylbiphenylpolyquat compounds, the compound polyethyleneimine and basic polycondensation products, preferably those containing imidazolidine units and especially Tinofix CL®,

b) from 2 to 80 % by weight of at least one carrier from the group consisting of zeolites, bentonites, kieselguhr, talc, kaolin, mica, fuller's earth, cellulose, feldspar and condensation products of urea and formaldehyde,

c) from 0 to 60 % by weight of at least one non-ionic dispersant and/or water-soluble polymer from the group consisting of starch, maltodextrin and carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, polyethylene glycols, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide copolymers, polyvinyl alcohols and gelatin,

d) from 0 to 20 % by weight of at least one further additive from the group consisting of wetting agents; disintegrators; fillers, water-insoluble or water-soluble dyes or pigments; dissolution accelerators; fluorescent whitening agents; aluminium silicates; powdered cellulose; fibrous cellulose; microcrystalline cellulose; talc; kaolin; TiO_2; SiO_2 and magnesium trisilicate, and

e) from 0 to 15 % by weight water, in each case based on the total weight of the granules,

V) 0 – 60 % of F) further additives from the group consisting of fluorescent whitening agents; suspending agents for dirt; pH regulators; foam-regulators; salts for regulating spray-drying and granulating properties; fragrances; antistatics; softeners; enzymes; bleaching agents; pigments; toning agents; further polymers which during the washing of textiles prevent staining by dyes found in the washing liquor which have dissolved out of the textiles under washing conditions; and bleaching agent activators, and

VI) 0 – 12 % of G) water.

19. A softener formulation for reducing dye loss or dye transfer from textile fibre materials, comprising

A) from 0.5 to 50 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one softener component;

B) from 0.005 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one thickener, especially a polymeric thickener;

C) from 0.1 to 70 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of granules comprising

a) from 1 to 90 % by weight, preferably from 5 to 88 % by weight, more preferably from 10 to 78 % by weight, of polydiallyldimethyl-ammonium compounds, especially polydiallyldimethyl-ammonium salts, bischloromethylbiphenylpolyquat compounds, the compound polyethyleneimine and basic polycondensation products, preferably those containing imidazolidine units and especially Tinofix CL®,

b) from 2 to 80 % by weight of at least one carrier from the group consisting of zeolites, bentonites, kieselguhr, talc, kaolin, mica, fuller's earth, cellulose, feldspar and condensation products of urea and formaldehyde,

c) from 0 to 60 % by weight of at least one non-ionic dispersant and/or water-soluble polymer from the group consisting of starch, maltodextrin and carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxymethyl-cellulose, polyethylene glycols, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide copolymers, polyvinyl alcohols and gelatin, and

d) from 0 to 20 % by weight of at least one further additive from the group consisting of wetting agents; disintegrators; fillers, water-insoluble or water-soluble dyes or pigments; dissolution accelerators; fluorescent whitening agents; aluminium silicates; powdered cellulose; fibrous cellulose; microcrystalline cellulose; talc; kaolin; TiO_2; SiO_2 and magnesium trisilicate, and

e) from 0 to 15 % by weight water, in each case based on the total weight of the granules,

D) from 0 to 20 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one further customary auxiliary substance, and

E) water to 100 % by weight.